APPENDIX I.

[*Vide* answer to starred question No. 129 asked by Sri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 17th July 1957, page 606 supra.]

Quantity of rice imported into Madras State during 1954, 1955 *and* 1956.

(*a*) The quantity of rice imported into this State from the adjoining States during the years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

A.—The only surplus State adjoining Madras is Andhra and the quantities of rice imported from Andhra into Madras during years beginning from 1953–54 are as follows:—

Year.	Quantity imported (in tons).
1953–54 *	215,794
1954–55	135,537
1955–56	94,303
1956–57	54,063

* NOTE.—The figures cover the Madras State before reorganization.

The above figures do not include movements by sea or road.

(*b*) The steps taken to make this State self-sufficient.

A.—The steps taken by the Government to make the Madras State self-sufficient in foodgrains including rice are briefly indicated below:—

The Madras State is implementing several food production schemes under the Grow More Food Campaign to make this State self-sufficient in foodgrains. The drive for increased food production has been in two directions, *firstly* extensive cultivation, by bringing new area under food-crops, increasing the area of double-crop cultivation and cultivation during the off-season; and *secondly* intensive cultivation by improved cultural practices, use of improved seeds and better manuring.

The drive for increased food production consists mainly of permanent schemes called " Works Schemes " which are intended to improve existing irrigation facilities or to provide fresh irrigation facilities and recurring schemes called " Supply Schemes " which are primarily designed to increase the yield of foodgrains per acre by distribution of agricultural aids like fertilizers, manures and improved seeds to ryots either at controlled rates or subsidized rates.

The following are the schemes included in the food production drive:—

Works schemes.—(1) Irrigation and Tank Improvement Scheme under the control of the Public Works Department.

(2) Tank Improvement Scheme and Special Minor Irrigation Programme under the control of the Superintending Engineer (Food Production).

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(3) Lift irrigation supply of oil engines and electric motor pumpsets to ryots on hiring and on hire-purchase systems.

(4) River Pumping Scheme.

(5) Filter Point Wells Scheme.

(6) Land reclamation by tractors and bull-dozers by hiring and hire-purchase systems.

Supply schemes.—(1) Distribution of chemical fertilizers like ammonium sulphate, superphosphate and other nitrogenous fertilizers;

(2) Urban Compost Scheme,

(3) Rural Compost Scheme;

(4) Distribution of green manure seeds;

(5) Multiplication and distribution of improved paddy and millet seeds; and

(6) Control of pests and diseases of crops.

Miscellaneous schemes.—(1) Village co-operatives;

(2) Madras Land Utilization Order, 1950; and

(3) Crop Competition Scheme.

The Food Production Programme for each year is drawn up by the Government in consultation with the heads of departments concerned and finally approved by Government of India. The order of expenditure on Grow More Food is about Rs. 500 lakhs per annum. For instance in 1957–58 the programme envisages the following expenditure :—

	RUPEES IN LAKHS.
Works schemes	149
Supply schemes	384
Total ..	533

In preparing the annual programme, the targets fixed under the Five-Year Plan are taken note of. For ensuring the proper implementation of the schemes and the assessment of results, definite targets of additional production are fixed for each year. Assistance is given by the Government of India for some of the schemes in the shape of loans and grants. The achievements against the targets are watched in the districts by the Collectors and other officers and the Collectors report the achievements under each scheme periodically to the Commissioner for Food Production for review.

A short description of the schemes is given below :—

(i) Under the Special Minor Irrigation Programme, construction of new irrigation works and repairs to existing sources such as anicuts, dams, regulator tanks, supply channels, etc., both in proprietary and ryotwari areas are taken up for execution after

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due investigation. A special Engineering Circle in charge of a Superintending Engineer consisting of executive divisions, attends to the execution of works in addition to the regular staff of the Public Works Department.

(ii) Lift irrigation is a useful means of providing water-supply both to supplement the available local irrigation and as an insurance against its failure and it is therefore encouraged by the Government; oil engine pumpsets acquired by the Agriculture department are hired out to the ryots for raising crops, preferably food-crops. Apart from this, the Government distribute oil engine and electric motor pumpsets to ryots under the hire-purchase system. The Agriculture department also arrange for installation of units of oil engines or electric motor pumping sets at Government cost in the first instance for the supply of water to ryots by pumping from rivers, ponds, etc., in the area selected for such irrigation so as to bring as much area as possible under crop production on a permanent basis.

Recognizing the limitations of surface water irrigation, the Government have been paying considerable attention to the exploitation of underground water sources in the State. Filter point tube-wells are sunk in ryot's land by the Government under the scheme known as the " Filter Point Wells Schemes ".

(iii) With a view to help ryots to adopt increasingly mechanical cultivation practices for certain processes, the Agriculture department supply them with tractors and bulldozers on hire. Tractors are also sold to ryots under the hire-purchase system.

(iv) Under the scheme of survey of cultivable waste lands, large extents of land in Ramanathapuram have been localized by a Special Agricultural Engineering staff in addition to the work done by the normal staff. The Government waste lands are assigned to individual landless poor persons at the rate of 5 acres (dry) each.

(v) Under the Madras Land Utilization Order, the Collectors have been empowered to take steps to sell in auction the right to cultivate arable lands, which are left uncultivated to others for cultivation with food-crops.

(vi) Manuring is an assured method of raising the yield and the scheme for the distribution of ammonium sulphate is therefore being continued. The use of nitrogenous fertilizers like urea and A/SN is also encouraged. Takkavi loans are granted to ryots on a liberal scale for the purchase of chemical fertilizers for application to paddy and other food-crops and the loans are recovered after the harvest of the long-term crop.

(vii) Under Rural Compost Scheme, the ryots are encouraged to compost waste vegetable matter like dried leaves, grasses, weeds, stubbles of grass, etc., with a view to supplement cattle manure. The compost week is celebrated along with the National Tree Planting Week (Vanmahotsava) and wide publicity

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is given regarding the award of certificates of merit to those who prepare the maximum compost. Under the Urban Compost Scheme, organic manures are made available to ryots at reasonable rates. At present, the municipalities and panchayats are selling compost at a subsidized price not exceeding Rs. 2 per ton. All municipalities and panchayats are encouraged to manufacture compost out of the town refuse and nightsoil by giving financial assistance by way of loans. Technical advice to the local bodies for the manufacture of compost is given by the Agriculture department and by the State Compost Development Officer.

(viii) Improved seeds of paddy, millets and green manure are procured from seed-farm ryots by the payment of a premium and sold to agriculturists at concessional rates. During the period of the Second Five-Year Plan it is proposed to set up 400 State seed farms in all parts of the State.

(ix) Plant protection is an essential auxiliary scheme as it saves valuable food from destruction of pests. Insecticides and pesticides are acquired on Government account and sold to ryots at concessional rates through agricultural depots. Sprayers and dusters are also purchased by the department and loaned to ryots wherever necessary and free technical advice is given by the Special Plant Protection staff employed under the scheme. Reports relating to forecast of pests and diseases and their likely incidence are sent to the Director of Information and Publicity and the Station Directors of the All-India Radio every week for giving wide publicity.

(x) In order to associate the cultivating ryots closely with the Food Production Schemes, the Government have also continued several Extension Service Schemes, like Village Co-operative, etc. The Government have undertaken crop competitions in the State in order to create an urge in the farmers to adopt improved techniques for stepping up the yield. Under this scheme prizes in cash and medals are awarded from the village level upwards to the competitors, who are adjudged to have secured the highest yield in the plots enlisted for the competition.